

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

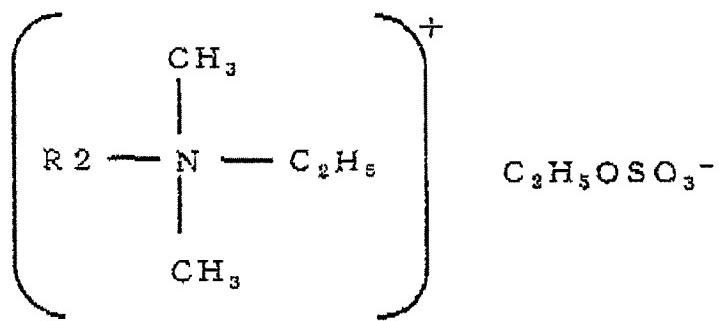
Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for producing expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads comprising steps of:
 - impregnating styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads with an easily volatile blowing agent to obtain expandable resin beads, and
 - impregnating 100 parts by weight of the expandable resin beads with 0.1 to 2.0 parts by weight of a surfactant at a temperature of 10 to 30°C and a pressure of 0.05 to 0.30 MPa, to obtain expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads.
2. (Currently amended)The method for producing pre-expanded expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is dissolved in an aqueous medium.
3. (Currently amended)The method for producing pre-expanded expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is a cationic surfactant.
4. (Currently amended)The method for producing pre-expanded expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is liquid at a temperature of 10 to 30°C.
5. (Original)A method for producing pre-expanded beads comprising step of :

pre-expanding the expandable styrene-modified olefin-based resin beads obtained by the method of claim 1 by heating with water steam at a gauge pressure of 0.01 to 0.10 MPa, to obtain pre-expanded beads.

6. (Original) A method for producing expanded molded beads comprising step of :
expanding-molding the pre-expanded beads obtained by the method of claim 5 by heating with water steam at a gauge pressure of 0.05 to 0.15 MPa, to obtain an expanded molded article.
7. (New) The method for producing expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant has a total number of carbon atoms of least 5.
8. (New) The method for producing expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is represented by the following general formula (1): $[(R1)_4N]^+C_2H_5OSO_3^-$.

9. (New) The method for producing expandable beads of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is represented by the following general formula:



wherein R₂ is a straight or branched alkyl group having a carbon number of 5 to 20.